

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:
- a) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is  
5 at least 60% identical to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 4, 6, 7, or 9 or the  
nucleotide sequence of the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as  
Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_, wherein said nucleotide sequence  
encodes a polypeptide having biological activity;
- b) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a fragment of at least 20  
10 nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 4, 6, 7, or 9 or the nucleotide  
sequence of the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_;
- c) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising  
the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8, or the amino acid sequence encoded  
15 by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_;
- d) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a fragment of a polypeptide  
comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8, or the amino acid  
sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as  
20 Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_ wherein the fragment comprises at least  
15 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8, or the amino acid sequence encoded  
by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_;
- e) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a naturally occurring allelic  
25 variant of a biologically active polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ  
ID NO:2, 5, or 8, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid  
deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_, wherein the  
nucleic acid molecule hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule comprising the complement  
of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 4, 6, 7, or 9 under stringent conditions; and,

f) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the complement of a), b), c), d), or e).

2. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, which is selected from the group consisting of:

a) a nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 4, 6, 7, or 9, the nucleotide sequence of the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_, or a complement thereof; and,

b) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_, or a complement thereof.

3. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 further comprising vector nucleic acid sequences.

4. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 further comprising nucleic acid sequences encoding a heterologous polypeptide.

5. A host cell which contains the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

6. The host cell of claim 5 which is a mammalian host cell.

7. A non-human mammalian host cell containing the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

8. An isolated polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:  
a) a biological active polypeptide which is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is at least 60% identical to a nucleic

acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 or the nucleotide sequence of the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_;

5                   b)       a naturally occurring allelic variant of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, 8, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule comprising the complement of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 4, 6, 7, or 9 under stringent conditions; and,

10                   c)       a fragment of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, 8, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_, wherein the fragment comprises at least 15 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8; and

15                   d)       a polypeptide having at least 60% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8, wherein the polypeptide has biological activity.

9.       The isolated polypeptide of claim 8 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

20                   10.       The polypeptide of claim 8 further comprising heterologous amino acid sequences.

11.       An antibody which selectively binds to a polypeptide of claim 8.

25                   12.       A method for producing a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

30                   a)       a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, 8, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_;

b) a polypeptide comprising a fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, 8, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_, wherein the fragment comprises at least 15 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, 8, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_;

c) a biologically active naturally occurring allelic variant of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, 8, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule comprising the complement of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 4, 6, 7, or 9; and,

d) a polypeptide having at least 60% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8, wherein said polypeptide has biological activity; comprising culturing the host cell of claim 5 under conditions in which the nucleic acid molecule is expressed.

13. A method for detecting the presence of a polypeptide of claim 8 in a sample, comprising:

a) contacting the sample with a compound which selectively binds to a polypeptide of claim 8; and,

b) determining whether the compound binds to the polypeptide in the sample.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the compound which binds to the polypeptide is an antibody.

15. A kit comprising a compound which selectively binds to a polypeptide of claim 8 and instructions for use.

16. A method for detecting the presence of a nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 in a sample, comprising the steps of:

a) contacting the sample with a nucleic acid probe or primer which selectively hybridizes to the nucleic acid molecule; and,

b) determining whether the nucleic acid probe or primer binds to a nucleic acid molecule in the sample.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the sample comprises mRNA molecules and is contacted with a nucleic acid probe.

18. A kit comprising a compound which selectively hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 and instructions for use.

19. A method for identifying a compound which binds to a polypeptide of claim 8 comprising the steps of:

a) contacting a polypeptide, or a cell expressing a polypeptide of claim 8 with a test compound; and,

b) determining whether the polypeptide binds to the test compound.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the binding of the test compound to the polypeptide is detected by a method selected from the group consisting of:

a) detection of binding by direct detecting of test compound/polypeptide binding;

b) detection of binding using a competition binding assay; and,

c) detection of binding using an assay for receptor-mediated signal transduction.

21. A method for modulating the activity of a polypeptide of claim 8 comprising contacting a polypeptide or a cell expressing a polypeptide of claim 8 with a

compound which binds to the polypeptide in a sufficient concentration to modulate the activity of the polypeptide.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the cell is derived from tissues selected  
5 from the group consisting of cardiovascular, inflammatory, malignant, immune, virus-  
infected, fibrotic tissue, brain and spinal cord.

23. A method for identifying a compound which modulates the activity of a  
polypeptide of claim 8, comprising:

- 10                   a)     contacting a polypeptide of claim 8 with a test compound; and,  
                    b)     determining the effect of the test compound on the activity of the  
polypeptide to thereby identify a compound that modulates the activity of the  
polypeptide.